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BOROUGH OF BRACKLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1952



Arthur Lucas,
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. DPH



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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the Year 1952

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Brackley.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,

I have again the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1952 which includes that of Mr. Morgan, your Sanitary Inspector.

The Vital Statistics are very satisfactory and there were no maternal deaths or deaths from infectious disease, so that the Borough is one of the healthiest in the Country.

A waiting list for houses still exists, but the time has now come to review the unfit houses in the Borough so that the Housing Programme may be completed.

Again I thank the Council and its Officers for the help they have given me during the year under review, especially Mr. Morgan, your Sanitary Inspector.

Your obedient Servant,

Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1953.

Public Health Committee, December 1952.

The Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman Miss E.M. Traneker, Chairman,
Alderman C. Pether, Councillor L.S. Coles, Vice Chairman,
Councillor E.G. Lovegrove, Councillor T.A. Morris
Councillor S. Phillips. Councillor B. Sykes,
Councillor G. Webb.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health: Arthur Lucas, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H.
Also holds appointments of:

Medical Officer of Health, Brackley Rural District Council
Medical Officer of Health, Towcester Rural District Council,
Medical Officer of Health, Northampton Rural District Council,
Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Northamptonshire County
Council, and Assistant County School Medical Officer.

Sanitary Inspector: C. Morgan, C.R.S.I., who also holds the
appointment of Borough Surveyor.

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1952.

Area of Borough, (acres)...	...	...	...	...	1685
Population (estimated mid-1952)...	...	...	...	...	2869
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1952)...	...	...	...	...	879
Rateable Value of Borough..	...	...	...	...	£14,184
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	...	...	...	...	£51

Extract from Vital Statistics for the Year

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births:</u>						
Legitimate...	...	...	...	30	15	45
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population	...	...	...	...	...	15.6

Still-births: 3 still-births were recorded during the year.

	Male	Female	Total
<u>Deaths</u> (all causes)...	14	16	30

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population... 10.4

Deaths from Puerperal causes:-

Puerperal sepsis...	Nil
Other Puerperal causes...	Nil

Infant Mortality:

Deaths of infants under one year...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	6
Deaths from Measles ...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough ...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	nil
Deaths from Pregnancy, child-birth or abortion..	nil

Area:

There has been no change in the area of the Borough which remains at 1685 acres.

Population: The resident mid-year population of the Borough as estimated by the Registrar-General was 2869, and the Vital Statistics are based on this figure. The estimated population is higher by 94 than that for the year 1951. The natural increase in population, that is, the increase of of births over deaths was 15.

Deaths: The total number of deaths assigned to the Borough by the Registrar-General, after adjusting for inward and outward transferable deaths is 30. The death-rate, based on the mid-year estimated population is 10.4, as compared with 11.04 for the administrative County and 11.3 for England and Wales.

A table giving a list of the causes of death in the Borough classified under the various causes is given on page 3.

Births: The number of births which occurred in the Borough during the year under review was 45. This gives a birth-rate of 15.6 as compared with 15.5 for the administrative County and 15.3 per 1,000 of the population for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality: One death of an infant under one year of age occurred during the year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 22.2 per 1,000 live births as compared with 24.96 for the administrative County and 27.6 for England and Wales.

Maternal Mortality: It is again gratifying to record that no death occurred from causes associated with child-birth.

The following table gives the birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality rate for the Borough, the administrative County of Northamptonshire and England and Wales for the past five years:-

Year:	Birth-rate			Death-rate			Infant Mortality-rate		
	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales	Brackley Borough	Northampton-shire	England & Wales
1948	14.3	17.46	17.90	8.9	11.00	10.8	nil	31.67	34.00
1949	13.47	16.19	16.7	13.85	12.07	11.7	28.5	33.78	32.00
1950	20.34	15.71	15.8	14.2	12.01	11.60	37.7	29.53	29.8
1951	17.6	15.57	15.50	13.0	12.13	12.5	nil	25.26	29.60
1952	15.6	15.50	15.3	10.4	11.04	11.3	22.2	24.96	27.6

Registered Causes of Death

Causes	Male	Female	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory... ..	1	1	2
2 Tuberculosis, other forms... ..	-	-	-
3 Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4 Diphtheria	-	-	-
5 Whooping Cough..	-	-	-
6 Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8 Measles... ..	-	-	-
9 Other infective & parasitic diseases ...	-	-	-
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	1	1
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	-	-	-
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14 Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms...	2	-	2
15 Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
1 Diabetes	-	-	-
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	2	6	8
18 Coronary disease, angina	1	1	2
19 Hypertension with heart disease... ..	-	-	-
20 Other heart disease... ..	-	1	1
21 Other circulatory disease... ..	-	1	1
22 Influenza	-	-	-
23 Pneumonia	-	-	-
24 Bronchitis	3	1	4
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ...	-	-	-
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	-	1
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	-	-	-
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion... ..	-	-	-
31 Congenital malformations	-	-	-
32 Other defined and ill defined diseases..	2	-	2
33 Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34 All other accidents	-	1	1
35 Suicide... ..	-	-	-
36 Homicide & operations of war	-	-	-
All causes	14	16	30

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE.

Laboratory Facilities: The Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Oxford carry out the bacteriological examination of pathological specimens and samples of water, free of charge. Medical Practitioners in the area submit specimens direct to the Laboratory and copies of the reports of examination are received at the Public Health Department.

Ambulance Service: Infectious disease cases requiring hospital treatment are removed to the Isolation Hospital, Northampton.

For the removal to hospital of surgical and non-infectious cases the St. John Ambulance Brigade Service is available and is maintained under contract with the Hospital Management Authority. The service, which is available by day and night is free and is a great asset to the Borough.

Treatment Centres and Clinics: The Infant Welfare Clinic continued to operate during the year under review and sessions are held every second Thursday in every month. Orthopaedic Clinics organised by the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital continued their valuable work during the year. Ante-natal Clinics were held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Nursing in the Home: The County Council operate a complete nursing service within the area and "Home Helps" are also on call in connection with infirm or chronic cases treated at home.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply: During the year the water supply was sufficient in quantity and of high bacteriological standard. The supply is from two deep wells with 15 inch bore-holes at the bottom of each. Two submersible electric pumps and an oil engine were used to raise the water to two storage tanks of 180,000 gallons and 10,000 gallons capacity respectively. The supply was not cut off during any part of the year. One of the wells was used very infrequently during the year as continued pumping reduced the level of the water below the suction of the oil engine pump. The water, which is not filtered, is chlorinated and samples submitted regularly to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory during the year showed that it was of a high bacteriological standard.

With the exception of two outlying farms in the area all premises are connected to the Council's mains.

Sewage Disposal: The sewage disposal works comprising two filter beds, two sedimentation tanks, humas and sludge lagoons and electrical plant for lifting the level of one outfall sewer continued to function satisfactorily during the year. The system of sewers comprise 6", 9", 12" 15" pipes. With the exception of sixteen houses in outlying parts of the district all premises are connected to the system.

Rivers and Streams: No complaints were received regarding the pollution of the River Ouse into which the effluent from the sewage disposal works discharges.

Camping Sites: There are no camping sites in the Borough.

Smoke Abatement: No action was found to be necessary in connection with smoke abatement.

Swimming Bath. The public swimming pool owned by the Council was in use during the year and was filled with water from the Council's mains. As I have stated in previous reports I shall be glad to see the installation of a filtration and chlorination plant at this pool.

Eradication of Bed Bugs No infestation by bed bugs was found during the year under review.

Public Cleansing - House refuse was collected weekly using direct labour and a Bantam Karrier refuse collecting vehicle fitted with sliding covers. One part of the Borough is collected on Thursdays and the other on Fridays.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949: In connection with the provisions of this Act, one of the Council's workmen carry out the duties of part time rodent operative, and good results were obtained by the use of sausage rusk and zinc phosphide.

Summary of Sanitary Inspections.

Number of visits and inspections:

Visits to Government Slaughter-house...	...	...	210
Inspections of butcher's shops	...	...	10
Inspections of meat hawkers' vans	...	...	6
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	8
Number of drains tested	...	...	32
Number of premises disinfected...	...	...	2
Visits to Factories & Workplaces	...	...	22
Number of houses inspected	...	...	54
Number of visits to fried fish shops...	...	...	10
Number of visits to other food premises	...	...	30
Inspections made in connection with rodent control	...	...	43
Number of minor infestations treated...	...	...	14

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)... 54
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... 75
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925... -
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... -
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 25

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers ... 25

3. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied... -
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners... -
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners... -

During the year 26 dwellings erected by the Council were completed bringing the total number of dwelling completed since the war to 118. Nine houses erected by private enterprise were completed during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply: The number of milk retailers in the Borough is 2. All milk retailed is produced outside the area.

Food & Drugs Act: 1938. Premises used for the manufacture or preparation of preserved foods were regularly inspected and found to be kept in a cleanly condition.

Meat and Other Foods: The Government Slaughter-house continued to function during the year. The numbers of animals slaughtered were as follows:- 642 Cattle, 411 calves, 2470 sheep and 473 pigs. Upon inspection meat and offal weighing 7 tons 2 cwt 1 qr. 2 lbs were found to be diseased, unfit for consumption and were voluntarily surrendered.

Diseased meat and offal were collected by a reputable merchant for further utilisation.

The following unsound foodstuffs were also voluntarily surrendered during the period under review:-

Marmalade...	...	3 lbs	Fruit Salad...	...	1 jar
Kippers ...	...	112 lbs	Jam ...	...	1 jar
Ham ...	...	69 lbs	Jellied Veal..	...	7 lbs
Butter Beans ...	...	24 tins	Tomatoes ...	...	2 tins
Veal & Ham Loaf...	...	8 lbs	Rabbit ...	...	1 tin
Salamon ...	...	1 Tin	Filchards ...	...	3 tins
Minced Beef & Kidney	...	66 lbs	Pork Luncheon meat...	...	3 tins
Pork Sausage ...	...	8 lbs	Pork brawn ...	...	1 tin
Liver sausage ...	...	6 lbs	Cherries ...	...	12 tins.

Food Shops: Food shops were regularly inspected during the year and were found to be kept in a cleanly manner. Retailers continue to display notices requesting the public to refrain from taking dogs into their shops.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious disease were reported during the year:-

Pneumonia...	...	...	1
Measles ...	...	...	3

There were no deaths from infectious diseases.

The following figures show the number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation against diphtheria at any time up to the 31st December 1952:-

Age at 31st Dec. i.e. born in year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5-9 1943 1947	10-14 1938 1942	Total under 15
Number immunised	1	20	44	23	41	131	122	382

TUBERCULOSIS: Three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported during the year. Two deaths were recorded from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year was as follows:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary...	3	8	11
Non-Pulmonary ...	3	1	4
Totals ...	6	9	15

Scabies: No case of scabies was reported during the year under review.

